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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Serial No.: 09/912,049

Examiner: Irene Marx

Filing Date: July 24, 2001

Group Art Unit: 1615

Inventors: Rehberger et al.

Title: *Direct-Fed Microbial*

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER  
FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace claims 4 and 7 with replacement claims 4 and 7 as follows:

A1 4. (Amended) A method of claim 3, wherein the strain comprises strain P169.

A2 7. (Amended) A method of claim 6, wherein the ruminant is fed the microorganisms such that the amount of microorganism delivered to the ruminant is about  $6 \times 10^{11}$  CFU/animal/day.